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Agenda item 10
Regional cooperation

France, Morocco* and Spain:* draft resolution

Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1982/57 of 30 July 1982, 1983/62 of 29 July 1983, 1984/75 of 27 July 1984, 1985/70 of 26 July 1985, 1987/69 of 8 July 1987, 1989/119 of 28 July 1989, 1991/74 of 26 July 1991, 1993/60 of 30 July 1993, 1995/48 of 27 July 1995, 1997/48 of 22 July 1997, 1999/37 of 28 July 1999 and 2001/29 of 26 July 2001,

Referring to resolution 912 (1989) adopted on 1 February 1989 by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe[1] regarding measures to encourage the construction of a major traffic artery in south-western Europe and to study thoroughly the possibility of a permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

[1] See Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly, fortieth ordinary session (third part), 30 January-3 February 1989, Texts adopted by the Assembly, Strasbourg, France, 1989.

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Referring also to the Barcelona Declaration adopted at the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, held at Barcelona, Spain, in November 1995, and to the work programme annexed thereto, aimed at connecting the Mediterranean transport networks to the trans-European transport network so as to ensure their interoperability,

Referring further to the Lisbon Declaration adopted at the Conference on Transport in the Mediterranean, held at Lisbon in January 1997, and to the conclusions of the Pan-European Transport Conference, held at Helsinki in June 1997, on corridors in the Mediterranean incorporating the permanent link,

Taking note of the conclusions of the second and third meetings of the Western Mediterranean Transport Group, held at Rabat in September 1995 and at Madrid in January 1997, and of the conclusions of the meeting held at Brussels in 2000 by the Euro-Mediterranean Forum on Transport, which constitutes a framework for coordination among the countries of the Mediterranean basin, for the development of integrated transport networks,

Taking note also of the conclusions of the study on transport infrastructure in the six countries of the western Mediterranean (INFRAMED), carried out by the Western Mediterranean Transport Group in 1998, which is currently being updated (the DESTIN study), with funding by the European Commission, for the establishment of an integrated network in the Mediterranean basin,

Taking note in addition of the follow-up report prepared jointly by the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa in accordance with resolution 2001/29, submitted for that purpose, which refers to further project studies, with the aim, in particular, of supplementing the related geological and geotechnical research,

1. *Welcomes* the cooperation on the project for the link through the Strait of Gibraltar between the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Governments of Morocco and Spain and specialized international organizations;

2. *Also welcomes* the efforts made to date in deep-sea drilling work, which have provided a decisive impetus to geological and geotechnical knowledge of undersea formations, and invites the two sponsoring countries and the organizations concerned to intensify their cooperation in order to finalize the project studies;

3. *Commends* the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa on the work done in preparing the project follow-up report[2] requested by the Council in its resolution 2001/29;

4. *Renews* its invitation to the competent organizations of the United Nations system and to specialized governmental and non-governmental organizations to participate in the studies and operations on the permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar;

5. *Requests* the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe to continue to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2005;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide formal support and, to the extent that priorities permit, the resources necessary, within the regular budget, to the Economic Commission for Europe and the Economic Commission for Africa, to enable them to carry out the activities mentioned above.

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[2] E/2003/45.